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The Iguana



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Photo by SPC Sarah Maxwell

Ready on rappel ...

SGT Freddie J. Davis Jr. leans into an "L" shape while the rappel master gives him direction from the top of the 34-foot rappel tower on base July 5. SAR team members must rappel through different stages before being a part of the team.

MEDEL LNOs make magic behind scenes

By 1st Lt. Kim Garbett
Public Affairs

They are the medical magic-makers behind the scenes. They see and treat some of the most gruesome medical conditions known to exist. No one really knows about these four caballeros, unless you are lucky enough to experience life at a medical readiness training exercise (MEDRETE) somewhere in Central America.

They are a four-man "fix-it" shop hidden in the back of Joint Task Force-Bravo's medical element (MEDEL). Dr. Wilmer Amador, Dr. Ricardo Aviles, Dr. Carlos Duron and Dr. Guillermo Saenz are the powerhouses and driving forces behind one of JTF-Bravo's main missions: MEDRETEs. All four are Honduran medical LNOs, or liaison officers.

With an average of 30 MEDRETEs to coordinate and participate in each year, depending on what JTF-Bravo's MEDEL is tasked with by U.S. Southern Command's Surgeon General's office, these four doctors work tirelessly to make sure each MEDRETE goes off without a hitch. Anywhere from the specialty MEDRETEs, including urology, ears, nose and throat, dental, women's health and orthopedic to general MEDRETEs, where the focus is less specific, they are the point-men. They provide preliminary interagency coordination with Honduran agencies, help with the planning of, and actually deploy on all MEDRETEs spearheaded by JTF-Bravo.

MEDRETEs provide an important benefit to U.S. medical personnel, in addition to just being able to do something good for another country. These exercises provide training to U.S. soldiers in the delivery of medical care in austere conditions in conjunction with a country's available resources, mentioned Aviles, one of the general physicians.

Medicine is practiced differently all over the world,

See LNOs, Page 6

Grassley takes command of Joint Security Forces

In a formal change of command ceremony, Maj. Rik Combs passed command of the Joint Task Force-Bravo Joint Security Forces to Maj. Leonard Grassley July 3 at the base theater.

Grassley came to Soto Cano following his duty as the Deputy Chief of the Installation Security Branch, Headquarters Pacific Air Force, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

He also served as executive officer of security forces and chief of air base defense while at Hickam.

He received his commission from the Reserve Officer Training Corp in 1990 and has spent the last 11 years holding positions at the squadron, Group and MAJ-

COM levels in five major commands.

Grassley has been flight commander, officer in charge of training and resources, missile security officer, law enforcement operations officers, operations officer, executive officer and chief, air base defense. He also deployed to Dhahran Air Base, Saudi Arabia as the operations officer in 1992.

Among many other career accomplishments, Grassley was the distinguished honor graduate while attending the Security Police Officer's Academy, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and was the honor graduate for academic excellence during Air Base Ground Defense

See Grassley, Page 6

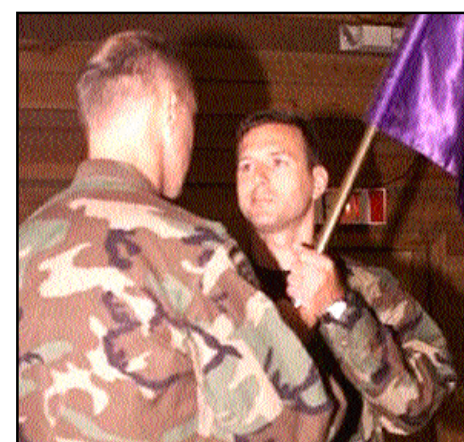


Photo by Martin Chahin

Maj. Leonard Grassley accepts the JSF colors and command July 3.

Commanders Corner

JTF-Bravo commander bids farewell to his troops

By COL Michael Wood
JTF-Bravo Commander

This is the last issue of the Iguana in which I will have the honor and privilege of commanding Joint Task Force-Bravo. I wanted to use this medium to convey my thoughts as I change command and depart Soto Cano Air Base.

THANK YOU - If you do not hear it from anyone else, hear it from me. Thank you for your dedication and devotion to duty to JTF-Bravo and to our nation. Thank you for the sacrifices you and your families endure while you serve in this remote area. Serving in the military is one of the noblest endeavors we can undertake, and I am grateful that you do so with so much professionalism and commitment to excellence. There is not a day that goes by that someone in JTF-Bravo does not impress me. Regardless of your rank, your duty position, or your Service, military or civilian, each of you plays a very important role in accomplishing the command's mission.

BE PROUD - You should be very proud of your accomplishments, both past and those that I know will come. This pride should be felt both as part of

your unit and as individuals. You have worked hard for this recognition and the results clearly show that you have earned it. There should be no doubt in your minds that you are making a difference, especially in the lives of so many people in the Central American region. That difference is etched in the faces of all the people that are impacted by JTF-Bravo's presence. Many of us have seen it firsthand, from reconstructing the faces, hands, or other body parts of accident victims and those with birth defects, to the expressions of joy as the children of "campesinos" entered their new school or clinic for the first time. Some of you saw the gratitude expressed by a family after a MEDEVAC saved the life of one of their loved ones or when a village was provided much needed fresh water or supplies after a natural disaster. I wish all of you could have experienced this. It adds a special and tangible quality to what we do here and it is very fulfilling. Although some of you have not had the opportunity to deploy in support of MEDRETEs, CENTRAL SKIES, NEW HORIZONS, disaster relief, or local emergency medical care, we could not have done it without you. The support that emanates from Soto Cano is crucial

to mission success in everything we do.

GREAT PEOPLE - Organizations are great when they have great people, and JTF-Bravo is a great organization. We have great leaders; both officers and non-commissioned officers, and they have the privilege of leading great soldiers and airmen. We are also very fortunate to have outstanding civilians, both United States and Honduran citizens. I must especially recognize our Foreign Service Nationals who are such an essential part of the success of JTF-Bravo.

TEAMWORK - This goes hand in hand with a great organization. Without teamwork, an organization cannot be successful. I am very proud of the teamwork displayed by all of you, both on and off duty. That teamwork is essential if the mission is going to be accomplished effectively and efficiently. As a side note, it also has a direct impact on Force Protection and especially safety. One of the accomplishments that I am most proud of is not having a serious injury or death involving a member of JTF-Bravo. Considering the number of missions we conduct, the environment in which we execute them, and their complexity, this

See Farewell, Page 3

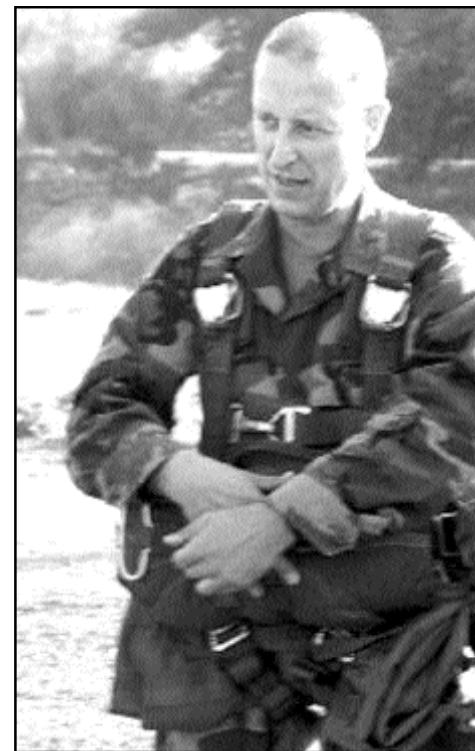


Photo by Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn

COL Michael Wood has commanded JTF-Bravo since June 2000 and will pass command to COL Michael Okita in a formal ceremony Tuesday.

Chaplain's Corner

Even on remote tours, Christ is beside us

By Chaplain (CPT) David Phillips
JTF-Bravo Chaplain

In the recent movie, "Pearl Harbor," the main scene of the movie was the attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor and the surprised servicemen. For the most part, the service men and women from officers to the enlisted ranks were defenseless in trying to repel the Japanese attack because it caught them by surprise.

Likewise in the beginning of the movie "Saving Private Ryan," the director showed scores of Allied soldiers in amphibious landing craft, headed for the Normandy coastline. Scores after scores of Allied soldiers were shot dead in their landing crafts and on the beach, as waves of soldiers made their way to shore. The soldiers finally realized that the only way to survive was to get out of the landing craft and off the shoreline then get up against the hillsides where they finally made their way up to the enemy's guns, which were entrenched in bunkers. Once the bunkers were silenced they had a clear objective of their mission and proceeded to carry it out to the fullest.

Satan fires bullets of accusation at us daily. He tries everything within his arsenal to intimidate and discourage us. He wants to sever our relationship with our God, our wives, our children and even our friends — anything to demean us and get us on the offensive.

But we have an ally who has never been defeated. Our Commander in Chief, Jesus Christ, who is in us, "is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Scripture tells us that our Lord will "never leave us nor forsake us," (Jos. 1:5) no matter what situation we may find ourselves in. And when we are separated from our families and friends, like on a remote tour, he, Satan, attacks us more because he knows we are vulnerable. But Proverbs 3:5-6, reminds us to, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (NIV) Scripture also reminds us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:5-6).

Thus we have an advocate who is always by us and more than ready to help us, if we only ask! We are never in this world alone, and we are always just a word away from our Lord, Jesus Christ, and His power to strengthen us. No matter what beach front or fight we may find ourselves in, we do not have to fight it alone. Philippians 4:13 continually reminds us that, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (NIV)

Time marches on and so do we, but we believers know who holds the future, and in him, every goal and objective we may have is more than possible. So choose to believe and march on with our Lord's strength and then we can all be victors!

The Iguana

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Farewell

(Continued from Page 2)

is a phenomenal record that is owned by each of you. I ask that you continue to work with each other - across Service lines and functional areas. This is a Joint Task Force for a reason— because the various services bring their unique capabilities, expertise and perspectives and together we are stronger than if we were apart. The word “bravo” in Italian, means “clever, skillful, good, and well done!” How appropriate that this unit is called JTF-BRAVO. The word aptly describes the organization, the people, and a “well done!” is definitely well deserved.

I want to wish all of you continued success in both your personal and professional endeavors, and my best wishes to all your families. I am very proud of all that we have accomplished together and humbled by the privilege of working with such outstanding Americans and Hondurans. Thank you for your loyalty, support, and dedicated service. All of you represent the best of our Services and our nation. God bless you and “PROGRESS THROUGH UNITY!”

MICHAEL R. WOOD
Colonel, USA
Commanding

DOD further curtailing Anthrax vaccine

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense is further curtailing the anthrax immunization program due to inadequate supplies of the vaccine, DOD officials said June 11. Effective immediately only servicemembers assigned to “special mission units” will receive the six-shot series.

The action is necessary because of delays in DOD receiving Food and Drug Administration-approved vaccine from Bioport Corp., the sole source of the vaccine.

The FDA is expected to approve Bioport, based in Lansing, Mich., for full production by March, said Marine Maj. Gen. Randall West, special assistant to the deputy secretary of defense for chemical and biological protection.

“We have not yet been able to re-establish the supply of certified safe and effective vaccine to continue the program on the schedule,” West said.

The contractor is working to achieve FDA approval of their new expanded manufacturing facility as soon as possible, he said. There are currently about 30,000 doses of vaccine available for use now.

But until then, DOD will conserve the dwindling supply of approved vaccine. Only small special operations units, people working on research and some congressionally mandated studies will continue to receive the vaccine, West said.

This is the third slowdown for the immunization program. In December 1999, DOD stopped inoculating servicemembers other than those deploying to Korea and the Persian Gulf.

In November, DOD stopped inoculating servicemembers bound for Korea. Now servicemembers deploying to Southwest Asia will stop receiving the vaccine.

“I wish we had vaccine available to continue the protocols and to continue vaccinating all of our people deploying there,” West said.

About 13,000 U.S. servicemembers are deployed to Southwest Asia. DOD and U.S. Central Command will have sufficient antibiotics on hand for post-exposure treatment in case of an attack.

Troops will have to rely on other forms of protection to an even greater degree, such as chemical and biological protection suits, detectors and intelligence collection and gathering, West said. In his opinion, West said it is imperative that DOD resume the vaccination regime as soon as possible.

“The sooner we can provide this vaccination protection to the entire force, the better I’ll sleep at night,” he said.

“The weaponized form of anthrax can be delivered by several munitions and is a very deadly threat,” he said.

“You can’t see this, you can’t smell it, you can’t taste it, it’s very difficult to detect and if you haven’t been vaccinated, by the time you detect symptoms of anthrax, it’s too late to save a person’s life,” he added.

People who have begun the vaccination regime will not have to start over when the program resumes.

“Fortunately, even a couple of shots provide some resistance to anthrax,” West said. “They’ll be able to start the protocols where they left off.”

“When we do have the vaccine replenished, the first place the vaccine will go is Southwest Asia,” West said.

Expansion of Thrift Savings Plan is available to military Oct. 9

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Servicemembers can begin to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan beginning Oct. 9, Defense Department officials said.

The Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement and investment plan that has been available to civilian government workers since 1987. Congress extended the plan to include servicemembers.

“It’s in addition to your regular retirement,” said Army Lt. Col. Tom Emswiler, a tax expert with DoD’s Office of Military Compensation. “It’s an optional program.”

The open season for signing up will run from Oct. 9 to Dec. 8. Deductions will start in January 2002. In 2002, servicemembers can contribute up to 7 percent of their basic pay. That limit of 7 percent of basic pay will rise to 10 percent by 2005 and become unlimited in 2006.

Unlike civilians, who cannot make lump-sum payments into the program, servicemembers will be able to contribute all or a percentage of any special pay, incentive pay, or bonus pay they receive.

“You can contribute from 1 percent to 100 percent of your special pays, incentives and bonuses into the thrift plan,” Emswiler said. The total amount generally cannot exceed \$10,500 for the year. Contributions from pay earned in a combat zone will not count against the \$10,500 ceiling. Combat zone contributions will be subject to a different limitation, however, 25% of pay or \$35,000, whichever is less.

Like civilian employees in the program, servicemembers will choose how they want their money invested.

Right now, there are three funds civilians choose from. The funds run the gamut from safe — the G Fund invests in special government bonds — to riskier investments — the C Fund tied to the stock market. There is also an F Funds that invests in commercial bonds.

TSP will unveil two funds in May. S Fund invest-

ments go to a stock index fund that paces small businesses. I Fund investors will track international companies the same way.

Servicemembers will be able to start, change or reallocate their TSP contributions during two open seasons held each year, in November to January and May to July.

“Because bonuses are hard to predict, if you are already participating in the plan and contributing from basic pay and you receive, for example, a re-enlistment bonus, you can elect to contribute at any time,” Emswiler said.

Contributions to the plan come from “pre-tax” dollars. Servicemembers will pay no federal or state income taxes on contributions or earnings until they’re withdrawn.

The services will have teams visiting bases to explain the program.

Until then, those who wish to can see the thrift plan’s uniformed services Web page at www.tsp.gov/uniformed/index.html for more information.

2,000 Department of Army forms now available with Internet program

By Nicholas J. Carter
Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — Service members can now access over 2,000 departmental forms with the click of their computer mouse.

Beginning Jan. 1 this year, the U.S. Army Publishing Agency made available a software program on their web site that can be downloaded by active- and reserve-component soldiers and Army civilians. The program can be accessed from home or at work. The software is a major improvement in the economy and efficiency of managing Army forms, said Army officials.

“Nobody will have to buy form software again at the local units,” said John Czekner, chief of publishing division, U.S. Army Publishing Agency. “They can just download the software and use it on their personal computers.”

To date, 212,000 software licenses have been downloaded. The Army predicts an estimated savings of \$1.4 million for the first year and, so far, has seen a nearly 400-percent return on investment since it became available to service members, Czekner said.

Maybe the most important benefit to the Army is that, for the first time, the site license allows users to use digital signature, he added. This allows forms to be approved electronically, which will help streamline the administrative process.

Users can access these forms online at USAPA’s web site, www.usapa.army.mil.

July 13, 2001

JTF-Bravo

Right: Josue Ponce, JTF-Bravo force protection, takes a ride on one of the barrel-racing horses Americans were invited to ride at U.S. Embassy's Fourth of July Community Picnic held at the agricultural college of Zamorano July 30.
Below: Master Sgt. Brad Truver, fire department, samples Pupusa at the picnic. Pupusa is a traditional Honduran dish of meat or cheese cooked in a tortilla shell then topped with vegetables.



Photo by SPC Sarah Maxwell



Photo by SPC Sarah Maxwell



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Komurek

More than 20 people gathered for the 1-228th's July 4 pig roast. People enjoyed the day off by listening to Latino

music and playing dominoes with friends. These activities were a common sight around base on the holiday.

JTF

Although men far from home for ly was alive and servicemembers

June 30 servic Embassy's Four agricultural colle side of Tegucigal

About 20 peop treated with helic a CH-47 Chinool 1st Battalion, 228

While there, 1 Americans living taste traditional l sports, horseback many other activi

Honduran craf side families an where a homesick strawberry shortc



1-228th membe anticipated mea

Bravo 4th of July

Joint Task Force-Bravo were Independence Day, the Fourth of July, Honduras with activities for in and around base. Residents were invited to the U.S. Military Community Picnic at the morano, about a half our out-

Soto Cano who attended were in a UH-60 Black Hawk or from the event, courtesy the 1st Regiment.

More than 2,000 other residents had the chance to enjoy the cuisine, play in organized games with bamboo sticks, among

displayed for purchase along with other items having bake sales and many could have old-fashioned

When the middle-of-week Fourth of July came around, Soto Cano was ready. Morale, Welfare and Recreation offered special trips to Tegucigalpa, Lake Yojoa, the waterfalls and Valley of the Angels for people who wanted to get away.

While some were enjoying the trips throughout the area, others were participating in the more than 15 barbecues happening around base. Some units even sponsored large cookouts like the 1-228th. The roasting began at 5:30 a.m., and everyone was more than ready to feast on the pig almost 12 hours later when it was ready.

Still keeping up with their mission, the Fire Dawgs kept the spirit of Independence Day alive while at work with a cookout at the fire station.

The volleyball courts were filled with players while some spent the day lounging by the Soto Cano pool.

In the evening, the annual Air Force vs. Army softball games took place with AFFOR taking the lead on two out of three games, which rounded out the many and varied Fourth of July activities for JTF-Bravo residents.



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Komurek

SPC Omar Ruiz, 1-228th, enjoys a hunk of hog at the 1-228th pig roast July 4.



Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Komurek

are a freshly roasted pig for hungry picnic participants. The much roasted at 5:30 a.m. and took nearly 12 hours to cook over an open

barbecue pit. The 170-pound pig was served along with rice and black beans. The 1-228th's roast was only one of about 15 barbecues people had going on base July 4.

July 13, 2001

JTF-Bravo

LNOs

(Continued from Page 1)

and in Honduras, this is no exception. Technology, cultural beliefs and environmental factors vary greatly from place to place and even within a country itself, Duron said.

Amador, a dentist on the LNO staff, explained there are a lot of diseases and medical problems unique to this country. Hondurans also regularly come to the gates of Soto Cano seeking emergency medical care for anything from snakebites to machete and gun shot wounds to other trauma cases. One LNO is always on call in this event to primarily assist with coordination with other Honduran agencies on-call to provide emergency medical care.

MEDEL's liaison officers also keep JTF-Bravo military personnel and other U.S. personnel in country informed on any outbreaks or medical threats in Honduras or surrounding countries, from Hepatitis A to Dengue Fever, said Duron. They research what the countries are doing to decrease the threat and how that will affect JTF-Bravo.

These four men's perhaps biggest role at JTF-Bravo, however, seems to be providing the continuity and training for U.S. personnel at MEDEL; every six months or so, they diligently train incoming medical folk on the nuances of medicine and medical procedures in Honduras. Not only does this help Hondurans, but it helps U.S. servicemembers working in the area because of the unique medical illnesses that come up, from allergies to mangoes to food and water-borne reactions.

The LNOs scope extends even further. They assist with humanitarian assistance programs and have aided in medical disaster relief efforts. They also "operate" as translators in medical cases wherever they are needed because the language barrier is a regular problem, said Saenz.

The LNOs work directly for the MEDEL commander. However, their contributions do not go unnoticed by the rest of the medical staff.

"They are some of the hardest working people on the medical staff here," stated 1LT Gary Hawkins, a physician assistant at MEDEL. "They're all really great guys, too, sharp, hard-working... They are over-worked and could probably make more using their skills out on the Honduran economy, but they really enjoy what they do here and have opportunities to work with the latest and greatest equipment and people in the U.S. military medical arena today. They are truly dedicated to what they do."

All the LNOs were trained at the medical school in Tegucigalpa and have bilingual school training as well, speaking both Spanish and English fluently.

Despite its challenges and long hours (especially during MEDRETE seasons), however, all four LNOs agreed whole-heartedly that they really enjoy their job. MEDRETEs provide for many people positive, life-changing results. Hand surgeries, cataracts, burn scars, cleft palate surgeries... it's part of their daily life. There is nothing like seeing a smile on one of the children's faces after their cleft palate surgery is complete and the scar is healing. Seeing someone use their hand again after not having the use of it for so long tugs at the tear ducts, they mentioned. It's the peo-



Photos courtesy of MEDEL

Top: Dr. Wilmer Amador plays an important role in diplomatic relations by talking with the Honduran First Lady, Mary Flores about the "Healthy School Program," which gives sealants and fluoride to school children at a General MEDRETE. **Left:** Amador performs the second part of his job as an LNO by sealing Honduran school children teeth in General and Dental MEDRETE exercises.



ple and the fact that they are changing people's lives for the better that really keeps them motivated, despite long hours and constant coordination.

"It's amazing to me each time we help someone," began Saenz. "They are so appreciative even for a little bit of medical care, as scarce as it is in these (developing) countries. In one instance recently in the Department of Lempira, as we were getting ready to close down our operations and were doing our final triage on patients at a MEDRETE there, an old lady and her 5-year-old son walked in. They had been walking since 5 or 6 a.m. that morning to get there, a good eight to ten hours from where they lived. They came just to get some vitamins and worm medication. They were so appreciative of what little we could give them. To aid them with their return trip, we gave them a couple of MREs and some water. Knowing that you've helped someone even in so small a way... those are the things that really make it worthwhile. That's what our job is really all about," he said.

Grassley

(Continued from Page 1)

Level IV Training, Fort Dix N.J. Additionally, he was selected as Headquarters Pacific Air Force's Security Forces Staff Officer of the Year in 1999.

In his speech to the JTF-Bravo command and troops when he was handed over command of JSF, Grassley said he will keep the security force going forward with the main focus on the troops.

"To the troops of the Joint Security Forces, I look forward to working for you and executing the goals and implementing the mission of both the squadron and JTF-Bravo," said Grassley. "... I truly do believe the greatest asset we have in the United States military is its people. We will provide security and we will protect our people."

The reviewing officer, COL Michael Wood, JTF-Bravo commander, welcomed Grassley into the task force with confidence in his abilities to lead JSF into the next year. "JTF-Bravo is indeed fortunate to replace an outstanding airman and leader with another one and one who will continue the legacy and excellence, which is the hallmark of JSF," said Wood. "Lee has the background and is eminently qualified to command this unit with distinction, and I know he will. We have replaced a very good commander with another good commander and we are very, very lucky to have him."

Combs commanded the JSF since July 2000. He is now on to his next assignment as 99th Security Forces Squadron commander, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

(Compiled by SPC Sarah Maxwell)

MAJ Leonard Grassley

Education

1990 Bachelor's of Science, Aviation Business Management, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ., Daytona Beach, Fla.
1990 Associate's of Science, Aviation Maintenance Technology, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ., Daytona Beach, Fla.
1991 Security Police Officer's Academy, Lackland AFB, Texas
1992 Stolen Explosive & Recovery Training, Keesler AFB, Miss.
1992 USAF Air Base Ground Defense Level IV, Fort Dix, N.J.
1994 Dynamics of International Terrorism, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
1997 USAF Air Base Defense Command Course, Lackland AFB, Texas
1997 USAF Squadron Officer

School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
1998 Combating Terrorism on Military Installations, Fort McClellan, Ala.
1998 Police Administration Course, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Ky.
2001 AT/FP Level III Commander's Course, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Major Awards and Decorations

-Meritorious Service Medal
-Air Force Commendation Medal, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster
-Air Force Achievement Medal
-North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal
-Armed Forces Service Medal
-Southwest Asia Service Medal
-Kuwait Liberation Medal

That's your opinion

What is your favorite sporting activity here?



Basketball: "I enjoy the camaraderie that comes from playing with different people of different backgrounds."

CPT Norman Hilton
ARFOR

Combat Jenga: "It's funny, mindless and silly. It gives you a chance to get together with friends and have fun."

CPT Nadine Gerber
JTF-Bravo Operations



Softball: "I enjoy the competition amongst all the services and the sportsmanship of the players."

SSG Sharla McCrory
JTF-Bravo Communications

Flag football: "I played football in high school, and that's the only form of football they have here."

Staff Sgt. Jason Norberg
Base Civil Engineers



12 teams, nearly 50 play for title at first 'Golf on the Mountain 2001'

By Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn
Public Affairs

With 12 teams of four members each competing for victory, an AFFOR team reigned supreme as they captured first place in the first "Golf On The Mountain 2001" golf tournament held July 29 at Villa Elena golf course in Tegucigalpa.

The Air Force's fearsome foursome of Bill Lane, Rick Langstraat, Brad Meads and Bud Wright pile drove the front nine with a tournament low of 28 strokes, finishing the tournament with an 8-under-par score of 58 — three strokes below the next placed team.

Lane described his team's ability to perform so well was due to their talent, skill, teamwork and a little luck — mostly talent and teamwork. "I couldn't have asked for a better team of dedicated professionals than those in AFFOR. They prove it everyday — excellence in all we do!"

Langstraat had a slightly different opinion of his contribution to the team as he was primarily the morale booster and said the key was "deciding on and sticking with a game plan."

Second place was secured as the all-Army team of Tom Hunter, Kevin Palmer, Kevin Quill and Erick Henson picked up two strokes on the back nine for a finish of 61, improving their third place foothold on the front nine to the second-best finish of the day.

Slipping from a front-nine, second-place standing into third place because of two back-nine bogies, the AFFOR team of Rich Forbrich, Bill Pinkowski, Mike Funicelli and Jeff Bohn managed the third place finish.

Meads won the longest-drive competition after stroking the ball nearly 400 yards.

Meads said the number three hole was the best he played and his chipping and putting were the greatest contributions to his teams overall victory. "We all played well together and had fun doing it," Meads said.

Louis Wingate bested the closest-to-the-pin competition on the ninth hole when his ball nestled a mere 20 feet from the pin. "It was just one of those shots that I had a good feeling about and I just let it rip — the kind of shot that keeps you coming back for another round," Wingate said.

The tournament was headed by Palmer, and he had a lot of favorable comments regarding the overall success of the tournament.

"I think it was a great success. There was great participation and support that always helps in an activity such as this. I look forward to being able to do another one before I return to my home station," Palmer said.

Proceeds from the event went to support the 1-228th, Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) Winged Warrior Chapter Scholarship Fund.

AFFOR takes All-Stars ball title

By Ken Kline
Fire Department

Only the best of the best Air Force and Army softball players were on display here June 9th. The all stars lived up to their titles, but AFFOR proved to be too much for Army, handing them a 15-1 defeat.

Tim Brown, of the Fire Department, pitched a nearly flawless game. In the seven-inning contest only three hits were given up by the AFFOR hurler. This was compared to 23 hits given up by the Army squad. Of the 23 hits, nine of them came in the fifth inning. By putting together three singles, two doubles, three triples and a home run, AFFOR posted eight runs in the fifth. AFFOR also picked up one run in the first inning, three in the third, and three in the sixth to reach their 15-run total. Army plated their only run in the fourth inning.

This was the final game of this softball season. I believe that everyone involved would agree that it was a very exciting and competitive one. A huge thanks goes out to everyone involved — from the players and coaches, umpires and concession stand workers. The biggest thanks go out to the fans!

The next season will be starting sometime in August, with more to come later on that. My Dawgs and I are putting up the challenge now to all comers. The title belongs to us; you are going to have to bring your best to take it away from us. Good Luck!

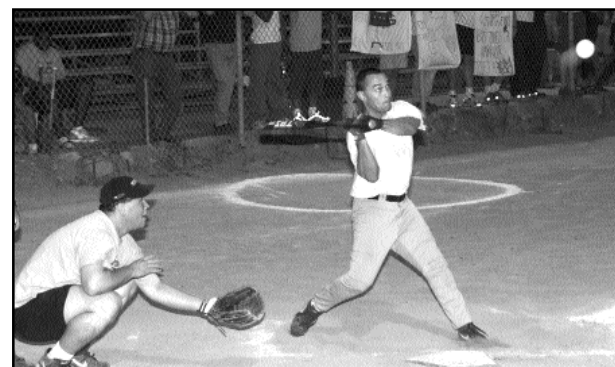


Photo Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn

Softball came to an end with AFFOR taking the lead not only in the All-Stars, but the AFFOR Fire Dawgs took the season as well.

BRIEFS

Base Pass Policy

The Honduran Air Force has revised the hours for personal guests coming on to Soto Cano back to 10 p.m. All guests must be completely off the base before then. This does not affect immediate family visiting from out-of-country, dependents or official visitors.

Swimmers Needed

Six Red Cross certified swimmers (or uncertified persons with very strong swimming skills) are needed to help with helocast training Aug. 7 and 9. Volunteers should call CPT Gus Perez at ext. 4380 to sign up.

Airfield Ops Channel

The Airfield Operations Channel is now available on Channel 96. It provides a continuous weather update that will have up-to-date warnings on severe weather such as hurricanes, thunderstorms, high winds and lightning. For flight crews, there is up-to-date airfield status information to include notices to airmen, navigational aid status, runway in use, bird condition, etc. The channel will be available 24 hours, seven days a week for the safety of all JTF-Bravo people.

Motor Stables

It is mandatory that units have a representative attend Motor Stables on Mondays from 9 to 11 a.m. If there is a reason why personnel cannot attend, they need to notify SSG Eric Butler or 1LT Jonathan Allen at ext. 4336.

Free Spanish Classes

The Soto Cano Air Base Education Center will add a third FREE Spanish headstart class, due to the overwhelming numbers of enrollees (over 60 students). For those who were on the standby list and/or those who could not get on the limited standby list, please feel free to come in and sign up for classes which start July 30 from 6 to 8 p.m. and run Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. For more information call ext. 4420.

Smart Team in Lima area

The SMART Team will be in the Lima area in the month of July. If your hooch or office is located in this area and you have items that need to be fixed, contact the DynCorp Trouble Desk at ext. 4584, for billeting, you may also call the Joint Lodging Office at ext. 4450.

Preventive Medicine

The myth behind Soto Cano veterinary services

By SGT James Barclay
Preventive Medicine

Most of you probably have no idea what the veterinary services do here or even what they do back at your home station. We have very important roles to play in support of both preventive medicine and force protection issues. So I'm going to take a few minutes today and let you know what those support roles are here at Soto Cano Air Base.

Veterinary services has two branches, food inspection and animal medicine. The food inspection branch is comprised of veterinary officers, warrant officers and enlisted food inspection specialists.

Here at Soto Cano, our veterinary officer conducts quarterly site visits to accomplish their part of the mission. That includes conducting initial, special, routine or follow-up inspections on local food sources or vendors that are currently selling or seeking approval to sell their product to the U.S. Government as an approved source.

In Honduras this can be quite challenging. Most of the sites are not within easy driving distance and we all know what dangers await us on the roads here. Many vendors have an extremely difficult time achieving acceptable standards. While we can't expect them to meet typical U.S. standards, there are some basic standards that must be met. Their mission also includes inspecting on base government assets. Those would include the post exchange and the troop issue subsistence activity (TISA), which is where all the food that is used in the dining facility is stored until needed. The TISA is also the storage facility for the field rations that the base uses to support its various field missions. The veterinary officer and food service technician do these inspections on a quarterly basis.

The noncommissioned officers and veterinary food inspection specialists stationed here conduct daily, weekly and monthly walk-through inspections on the base assets. This is to ensure that proper storage methods are being adhered to, foods are being stored at the recommended temperatures, each type of food is being handled appropriately, and the storage facilities themselves are being maintained adequately.

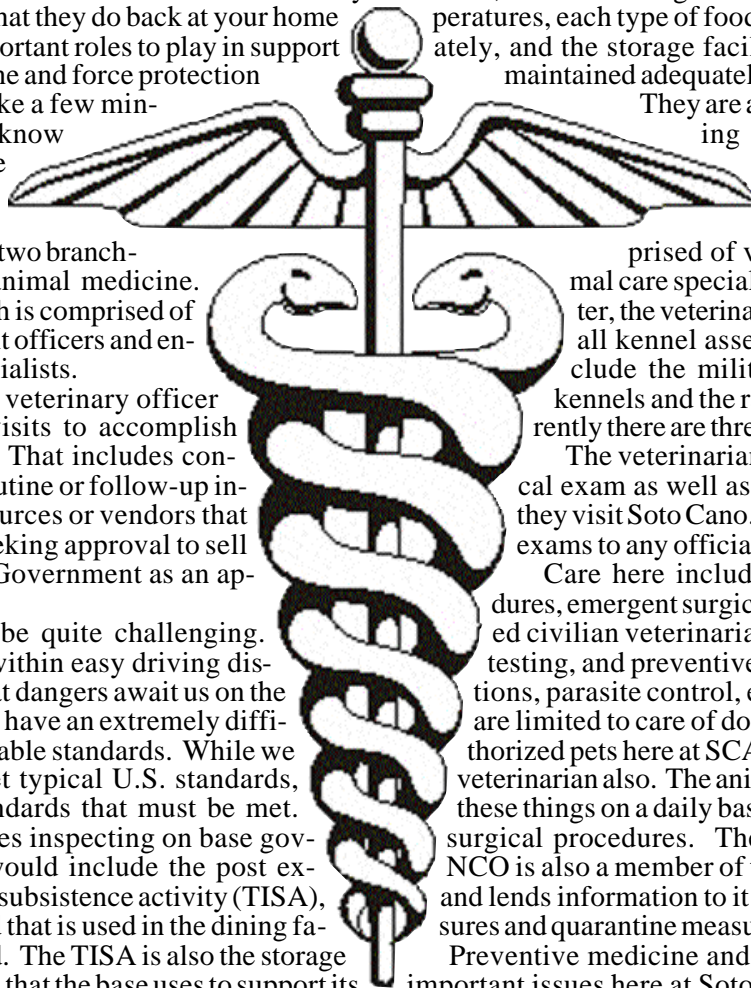
They are also responsible for inspecting all field rations to ensure they are fit for troop consumption. The animal medicine branch is comprised of veterinary officers and animal care specialists.

At least once per quarter, the veterinarian conducts inspections of all kennel assets here on base. Those include the military working dog (MWD) kennels and the rabies suspect kennels. Currently there are three MWDs here at Soto Cano.

The veterinarian gives each a yearly physical exam as well as a routine exam every time they visit Soto Cano. The veterinarian also gives exams to any official mascot on base.

Care here includes routine surgical procedures, emergent surgical procedures (at a contracted civilian veterinarian if necessary), routine lab testing, and preventive health measures (vaccinations, parasite control, etc.). But by regulation, we are limited to care of dog or cat mascots. So the authorized pets here at SCAB must be seen at a civilian veterinarian also. The animal care specialist also does these things on a daily basis as needed excepting only surgical procedures. The animal care specialist or NCO is also a member of the Rabies Advisory Board and lends information to it about possible rabies exposures and quarantine measures for the animal involved.

Preventive medicine and force protection, two very important issues here at Soto Cano. Veterinary services gives their best to make sure we meet the needs of the service members stationed here.



Good day
Buenos días

Pleased to meet you
Mucho gusto

Where is the bathroom?
¿Donde esta el baño?

One soda please
Un refresco por favor

Summer safety is year-long issue

By Tech Sgt. Troy Wright
Fire Department

As we all know the Department of Defense sponsors the 101 Days Of Summer Safety Campaign covering the time period from Memorial Day to Labor Day. This was done because of the large number of accidents involving service members during this time.

Here at Soto Cano, because of the tropical climate, we may encounter summer safety issues throughout the year. As you're preparing to enjoy the year-round summer weather, here are few things you should think about.

When working or participating in sporting activities outdoors, ensure you always adequately hydrate yourself and protect your skin with the appropriate type of sunscreen.

Try to avoid excessive use of alcohol during these or any other type of activity you may plan. Alcohol in-

creases your body's rate of dehydration, making you more prone to heat related injuries.

Because of the nature of the climate in Honduras this time of year, Soto Cano is prone to very large thunderstorms.

With these storms comes the hazard of lightning. If you happen to be outside during this type of weather seek immediate shelter until the storm ends.

It's also important to protect yourself from the insects here in Honduras, which means you should always take your malaria pills and use adequate insect repellent when outdoors.

As with any activity you plan to be involved in, always look at the possible risks to your personnel safety.

In Honduras we are fortunate to have 365 days of summer. So always keep safety in mind through out the year.